



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Nez Perce National Forest  
104 Airport Road  
Grangeville, ID 83530  
208-983-1950

Clearwater National Forest  
12730 Highway 12  
Orofino, ID 83544  
208-476-4541

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File Code: 1950

Date: January 29, 2014

Dear Planning Participant:

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests will be considering the attached projects and conducting environmental analyses in the near future.

The Salmon District Ranger has made a preliminary assessment that these projects fall within a category of actions listed in 36 CFR 220.6, thereby excluding them from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

To submit comments on these proposals, please follow the instructions provided in the "How to Provide Comments" section.

Thank you for your continued participation in projects involving the Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests.

Sincerely,

*for Dan Hellenkamp*  
RICK BRAZELL  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures: Maps of Project Sites\*





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## ***How to Provide Comments***

Please review the following proposals and submit your site-specific comments as described below so they can be included in our analyses for the projects.

Written, facsimile transmitted, hand-delivered, and oral comments will be accepted for **30 calendar days following publication of a legal notice in the *Lewiston Tribune***. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. One should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

If you have any questions or would like additional information regarding these projects, please contact Linda S. Helm, Small NEPA Coordinator, Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests, Kamiah, Idaho or call (208) 935-4285. Oral comments must be provided to her during normal business hours *via* telephone or in person. Written comments should either be mailed or hand-delivered (between 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (PST), Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays) to her c/o Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests, Supervisor's office, 104 Airport Road, Grangeville, Idaho 83530; or submitted *via* facsimile transmittal to her at (208) 935-4275, where they will be forwarded to the Kamiah office *via* electronic mail. Electronic mail comments should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc) or portable data format (.pdf) to [comments-northern-nezperce@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-northern-nezperce@fs.fed.us).

If you choose to comment on the proposals, please include the following: (1) your name, address, and (if possible) your telephone number, and organization represented (if any); (2) title of this project; and, (3) specific facts and relevant rationale concerning this project that you feel should be considered. **Please note that we will not respond to “boiler-plate” objections that are not specific to the particular projects.** For appeal eligibility, each individual must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Additional information regarding how to comment can be found at 36 CFR 215.6.

**Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names, telephone numbers, addresses, and electronic mail addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection.** Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; **however, those who submit anonymous comments may not have standing to appeal** the subsequent decision pursuant to 36 CFR Part 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the Agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the Agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality and the available options at that time (see 7 CFR 1.27 for further information).



## **Project Proposals**

### **Forestwide**

#### **Pre-Commercial Thinning**

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(e)(6): *Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than 1 mile of low standard road construction.*

#### **Specific Stands, Acreage, and Legal Coordinates and Subwatersheds of Project Sites:**

Central Zone:

<b>Stand Number</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Subwatershed</b>
106-02-012	22	35N	7E	6	Camp Creek
107-02-033	13	35N	6E	36	Eldorado Creek
107-02-050	23	35N	6E	35	Eldorado Creek
107-02-061	24	34N	6E	1	Eldorado Creek
107-02-062	29	34N	6E	2	Eldorado Creek
107-05-041	19	34N	7E	6	Six Bit Creek
107-06-044	13	35N	7E	31	Eldorado Creek
108-01-012	41	34N	6E	17	Eldorado Creek
108-04-001	22	35N	6E	33	Cedar Creek
108-06-010	28	34N	6E	10	Cedar Creek
108-06-015	36	34N	6E	11	Cedar Creek
108-07-010	32	34N	6E	10	Cedar Creek
111-08-005	22	34N	6E	28	Eldorado Creek
111-08-027	6	34N	6E	29	Eldorado Creek
112-02-024	20	33N	6E	9	Yakus Creek
512-01-018	15	33N	7E	3	Apgar Creek
512-03-001	44	34N	7E	9	Canyon Creek
512-03-079	25	34N	7E	9	Canyon Creek
512-04-034	27	34N	7E	21	Canyon Creek
512-04-037	27	34N	7E	17	Canyon Creek
512-05-079	12	34N	7E	30	Canyon Creek
512-06-056	34	34N	7E	33	Canyon Creek
512-07-010	40	34N	7E	32	Cabin Creek
512-07-015	60	33N	7E	8	South Fork Canyon Creek
512-07-025	2	33N	7E	5	South Fork Canyon Creek
512-07-046	8	33N	7E	5	Cabin Creek

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512-07-047	1	33N	7E	5	South Fork Canyon Creek
512-08-054	40	33N	7E	4	Canyon Creek
513-03-026	8	34N	7E	13	Deadman Creek
513-07-093	4	37N	7E	26	Deadman Creek
513-08-023	3	34N	7E	13	Deadman Creek
520-05-088	38	34N	6E	36	Deadman Creek
520-05-093	29	33N	6E	1	Walde Creek
520-06-027	8	33N	6E	11	Polar Creek
520-06-030	34	33N	6E	10	Polar Creek
520-07-032	30	33N	6E	16	Pete King Creek
520-07-096	35	33N	6E	9	Pete King Creek
520-09-172	11	33N	7E	28	Pete King Creek
522-02-067	11	33N	6E	21	Pete King Creek
621-04-044	14	37N	13E	17	Squaw Creek
623-03-003	6	36N	12E	11	Mink Creek
623-05-006	10	36N	13E	7	Burnt Cedar Creek
624-09-014	20	36N	12E	4	Post Office Creek
627-04-087	3	36N	11E	15	Indian Post Office Creek
627-08-002	11	36N	11E	16	Indian Post Office Creek
627-09-002	3	36N	11E	15	Indian Post Office Creek
719-01-006	48	30N	7E	4	West Fork O'Hara Creek

North Zone:

--North Fork Ranger District

Stand Number	Acres	Township	Range	Section	Subwatershed
10205018	19	36N	6E	10	Upper Orofino Creek
11605002	22	37N	7E	3	Lower Orogrande Creek
11708010	31	37N	7E	6	Lower Orogrande Creek
11708026	26	37N	7E	6,7	Lower Orogrande Creek
11708027	11	37N	7E	7	Lower Orogrande Creek
11708028	6	37N	7E	6	Lower Orogrande Creek
11901007	4	36N	6E	27	French Creek
11903005	31	37N	6E	35	French Creek
11904043	14	37N	6E	35	French Creek
12001068	22	37M	7E	12	Hemlock Creek
30203008	18	41N	6E	23	North fork of Clearwater-Sneak Creek
31201092	25	40N	7E	16	North fork of Clearwater – Salmon Creek
31303093	19	40N	7E	30	Beaver Creek
31307005	5	40N	7E	6,7	North fork of Clearwater – Sneak

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					Creek
31308050	9	40N	7E	8	North fork of Clearwater – Sneak Creek
31308098	7	40N	7E	5,8	North fork of Clearwater – Sneak Creek
31308099	5	40N	7E	5	North fork of Clearwater – Sneak Creek
31308105	9	40N	7E	5	North fork of Clearwater – Sneak Creek
31308106	5	40N	7E	6	North fork of Clearwater – Sneak Creek
31308110	18	40N	7E	5	North fork of Clearwater – Sneak Creek
33101038	10	40N	10E	16	North fork of Clearwater – Elizabeth Creek
33102072	8	40N	10E	16	North fork of Clearwater – Elizabeth Creek
33604119	13	40N	11E	10,11	Osier Creek

--Palouse Ranger District

Stand Number	Acres	Township	Range	Section	Subwatershed
25203035	25	T42	R4	1,2	Gold Creek
25402013	41	T42	R4	12	Big Creek
25402053	12	T42	R4	12	Big Creek
25402054	16	T42	R4	1	Big Creek
25503018	7	T42	R2	28	Meadow Creek
25503048	32	T43	R2	32,33	Meadow Creek
25503056	24	T42	R2	32	Meadow Creek
25601001	36	T42	R2	8	Big Sand Creek – Palouse River
25601042	6	T42	R2	5	Big Sand Creek – Palouse River
25601043	29	T42	R2	5	Big Sand Creek – Palouse River
25601049	15	T42	R2	8	Big Sand Creek – Palouse River
25602028	29	T42	R2	9	Big Sand Creek – Palouse River
25602045	8	T42	R2	10	Big Sand Creek – Palouse River
25604027	44	T42	R2	4	Big Sand Creek – Palouse River
25604029	15	T43	R2	33	Big Sand Creek – Palouse River
25703049	33	T41	R3	11	Rock Creek – Palouse River
25901070	4	T42	R2	11	Headwater – Palouse River
25902024	27	T43	R1	30	Headwater – Palouse River
25903005	28	T42	R1	5	Headwaters – Palouse River
25903007	4	T42	R1	6	Headwater – Palouse River
25903009	21	T42	R1	5,6	Headwater – Palouse River
25903023	20	T42	R1	5	Headwaters – Palouse River

25904018	5	T42	R2	10	Headwater – Palouse River
25904034	37	T42	R2	14	Headwaters – Palouse River
25905008	25	T42	R2	12	Headwaters – Palouse River
25905014	29	T42	R2	14	Headwater – Palouse River
25905021	32	T42	R2	12	Headwaters – Palouse River
26001007	17	T42	R2	23,24	Headwater – Palouse River
26002003	22	T42	R2	18	Headwater – Palouse River
26002010	23	T42	R1	18	Headwater – Palouse River
26002024	25	T42	R1	18	Headwater – Palouse River
26004038	5	T42	R1	5	Headwater – Palouse River
26005015	13	T42	R1	20	Headwaters – Palouse River
26005016	26	T42	R1	20	Headwaters – Palouse River
26005017	10	T42	R1	21	Headwaters – Palouse River

**Background:** This proposal would pre-commercially thin up to 2083 acres of over-stocked, mixed conifer species stands from 2014 to 2017. These treatments are in young forest stands which have resulted from regeneration harvests in the last 15 to 25 years.

**Narrative Summary:** This project is being proposed for the following reasons:

- To maintain and promote shade intolerant seral species. The shade intolerant seral species generally tend to be more fire resistant and longer-lived than the shade tolerant species;
- To increase the amount of sunlight to the ground and sustain the diversity of early seral vegetation species including those browse species important to big game and to also lengthen the time period that this forage would otherwise be available;
- To reduce the long-term fire hazard conditions in the stands to be treated and adjacent forest by:

By reducing the ladder fuel hazard and the potential fuel buildup from future stem exclusion tree mortality;

By creating a break in the continuity of standing dense ladder fuels across the landscape;

- To accelerate the diameter and height growth on the remaining selected trees in order to increase future timber yield potential and to accelerate successional development to the larger size classes; and,

- To improve the vigor of the remaining trees to make them more resistant to insect and disease attacks and less vulnerable to ice and snow damage and thereby promote long-term forest health and resiliency.

**Project Design Specifications/Equipment to be Used:** All work would be done by hand using chainsaws. There will be no ground disturbing activities associated with this Project.

- Only trees less than 5 inches in diameter would be felled, however, cull live trees up to 8 inches in diameter that would never make a crop tree would also be felled.
- No burning would occur in the stands after thinning or release nor would any further mechanical slash treatment be done.
- Only existing roads would be used to provide access to the sites. All trees that are felled across any Forest road or trail would be removed.

**Project Information:** For additional information regarding this project, contact Geoff Kaeberle at (208) 935-4274. (Note: Maps\* for the above locations are too voluminous to include with this correspondence but are available from Mr. Kaeberle on request.)

## ***Powell Ranger District***

### ***Road 108 Re-Alignment and Woody Debris Project (two stages)***

**Proposed Categories:** 36 CFR 220.6(d)(4)\*: *Repair and maintenance of roads, trails, and landline boundaries;* and, 36 CFR 220.6(e)(7) *Aquatic habitat structure repair.*

**Legal Coordinates of Project Site:** T37N, R13E, Section 31 (Boise Meridian)

**Background:** For purposes of clarification, both stages of this project are incorporated into this comment letter; however, only stage two is subject to appeal.

The project site is located approximately one mile upstream of the confluence of Waw'áalamnima Creek and the Lochsa River, at the junction of Forest Service Road (hereinafter referred to as "FS Road") 108 and US Highway 12, about eight miles west of Powell, Idaho. FS Road 108 is located immediately adjacent to Waw'áalamnima Creek.

In 2010, there was concern with the stream eroding the road, thus rip-rap was placed along the toe of the road fill. During that winter, beavers constructed a dam at the top of the work zone. This dam diverted the water into an ephemeral side channel. By the spring of 2011, the ephemeral side channel had become the main channel; however, a log weir that was exposed by the newly created channel has redirected the thalweg directly into the road at this site. Consequently, the stream is eroding the fill of the road

prism in several places. At the project site, an area approximately 10 feet long and 2.5 feet deep of road fill has eroded and deposited directly into the stream channel with additional material continuing to actively calve into the stream.

**Narrative Summary:** FS Road 108 would be realigned away from the stream to the toe of the hillslope in order to provide some riparian separation between the road and the stream. In addition, in-stream wood placement would encourage the active channel to migrate away from the road and re-activate an abandoned side channel. Several tree-length pieces of wood and three log jams would be used to encourage these channel changes, improve fish habitat conditions, and reduce the pressure now being placed on the road fill.

**Project Design Specifications/Equipment to be Used:** The proposed action would relocate approximately 315 feet of road to the east by a maximum of 27 feet and re-contour the existing road prism. The proposal includes laying the existing rip-rap along the new fill slope of the relocated road and burying that rip-rap with 12 inches of planting soil mix. The vegetation that is now growing where the new road prism would be located will be clump planted between the new road and the active channel. In addition, woody debris including logs with root wads would be placed in the new riparian area between the new toe of road fill and the channel.

The project would also strategically install three log jams and up to seven individual logs as shown in the figure below. Three log barbs would be placed in order to encourage the flow to migrate over time into an existing side channel. Two partially buried large logs would be removed from this side channel and used on the project site. Two existing log weirs located within the project area would be modified. The upstream log weir would have a 2-4 foot section cut out of the middle of it to improve upstream juvenile passage and to create a thalweg. The downstream log weir is currently causing the water to be directed into the existing road prism (see photos above). Thus, the project would remove the downstream log weir for use in one of the jams. All of the logs used in this project would come from onsite. Additionally, no logs would be removed from the channel, but rather relocated into jams or individual log structures.

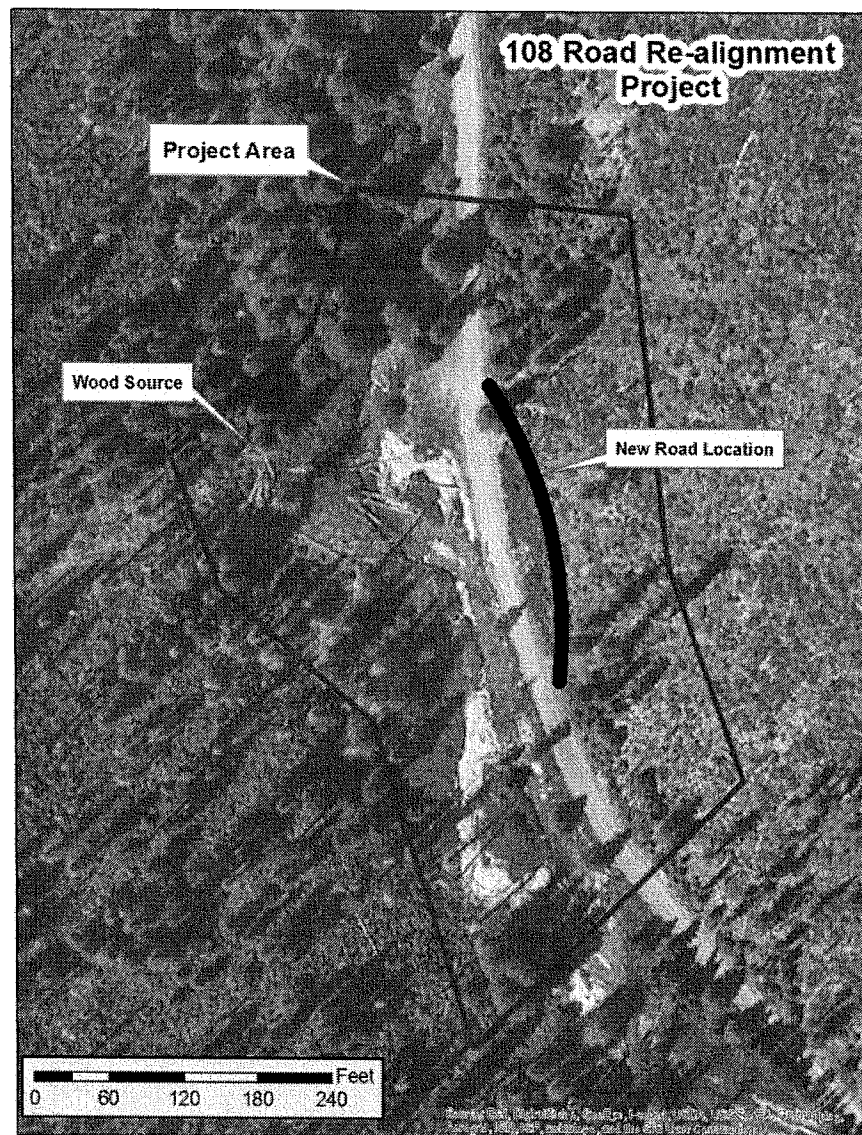
Activities would be completed with heavy equipment and, where appropriate, by hand.

The proposed project would be implemented between July 15 and August 15, 2014, by Forest Service contractors, with Forest Service and Nez Perce Tribe staff oversight and direction.

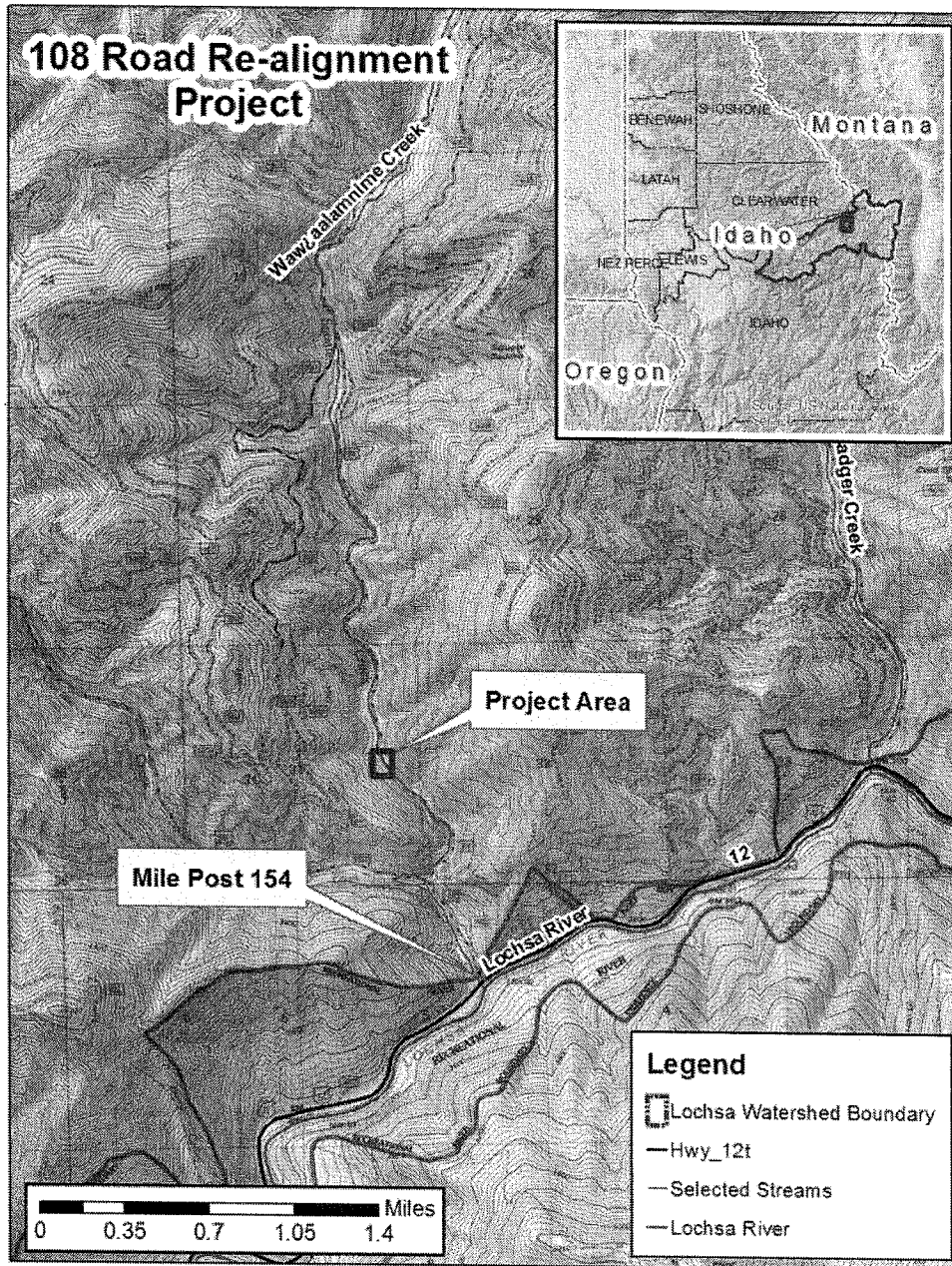
**Project Information:** For additional information regarding this project, contact Anne Connor at (208) 476-8235.



## MAP (1) OF ROAD 108 RE-ALIGNMENT AND WOODY DEBRIS PROJECT SITE



## MAP (2) OF ROAD 108 RE-ALIGNMENT AND WOODY DEBRIS PROJECT SITE



## ***Red River Ranger District***

### ***American River Culvert Replacement***

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(e)(7) *Aquatic habitat structure repair.*

**Legal Coordinates of Project Site:** T29N, R8E, Section 33 (Boise Meridian)

**Background:** The 11' x 4' x 80' and 8' x 6' x 80' CMP culverts on Road 222 at Mile Post 0.03 are aquatic organism barriers and have caused some minor erosion downstream. The need for the proposed action is to provide the appropriate size culvert for the 100-year storm and the proper channel improvements to prevent erosion. The need is also to allow for aquatic organism passage including fish at the site.

**Narrative Summary:** This project is for the removal of the existing corrugated steel culverts on the American River and replacing them with a 46'-9" span structural-plate, open bottom arch culvert on a concrete footing. The project is on BLM land and private land for the east portion.

The project will meet current Forest Plan standards for passage of 100 year flow events and allow for aquatic organism passage. The crossing will be designed for fish passage as there are fish present.

The Nez Perce Tribe will be contacted for coordination. The project will be funded by the Tribe.

The project will start in the spring/summer of 2014 and should last a maximum of six weeks. Potential problems include shallow bedrock elevations in the proposed culvert location. The project is being coordinated with the North Idaho Lands Zone to handle the right-of-way needs for the BLM and private land owners.

**Project Design Specifications/Equipment to be Used:** The project consists of removing the existing culverts and replacing them with a 46'-9" span by 16' rise by 76' long steel structural plate arch culvert. Improvements consist of (but are not limited to) structural excavation, excavation and reshaping of ~104' of the channel, placement of riprap, precast or cast in-place concrete footings, embankment and excavation of roadway approaches, and road surfacing. Asphalt surfacing will be used.

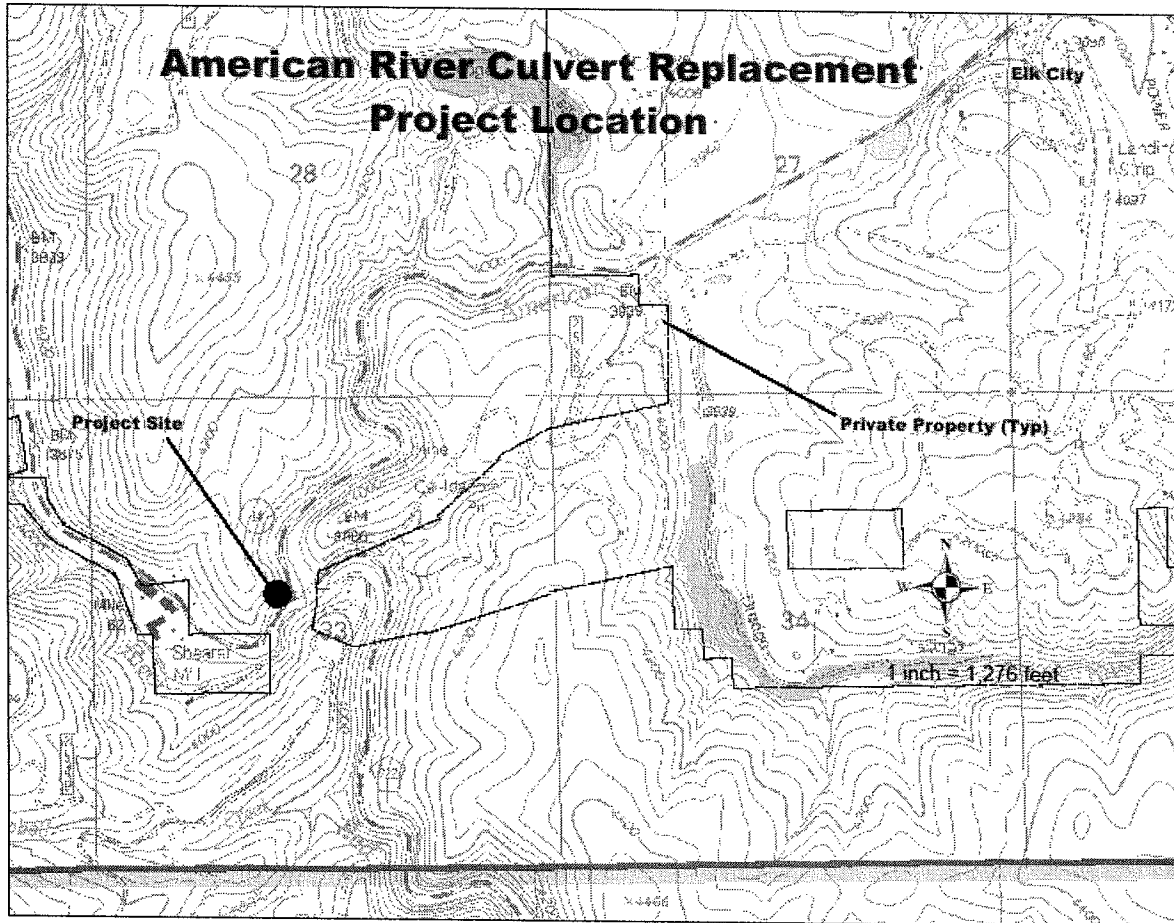
Approximately 130' of Road 222 will need to be built up with embankment material and covered with a layer of base course aggregate and asphalt surfacing to improve roadside drainage and mitigate sediment runoff.

Equipment to be used will include an excavator, grader, dump trucks, and compaction roller.

The project will not change access restrictions but there will be the need for a temporary bypass to be constructed immediately downstream of the proposed culvert site near the confluence of the Red River and American River.

**Project Information:** For additional information regarding this project, contact Chris Wolffing at (208) 983-5153.

### MAP OF AMERICAN RIVER CULVERT REPLACEMENT SITE



## ***Salmon River Ranger District***

### ***Basin Creek Culvert***

**Proposed Category:** 36 CFR 220.6(e)(7) *Aquatic habitat structure repair.*

**Legal Coordinates of Project Site:** T27N, R3E, Section 35 NE¼ SW¼ (Boise Meridian)

**Background:** The Basin Creek culvert is a fish barrier. It is perched about 2 feet above the downstream pool. Currently, there is a 48" CMP; the bank-full width is 10 feet. It is ½ mile upstream of the confluence of Basin with Slate creeks. All other Slate Creek tributaries along Road 354 have been improved to allow aquatic organism passage.

**Narrative Summary:** The Nez Perce Tribe, in coordination with the Forest Service, wants to replace the culvert on Basin Creek where it crosses Road 354. This culvert was identified through culvert surveys as one that needed replaced for aquatic organism passage.

**Project Design Specifications/Equipment to be Used:** A natural bottom culvert will replace the perched culvert. Culvert replacement requires limited new ground disturbance.

Excavators and dump trucks will be used to remove the fill and culvert, and place a new culvert and fill. Road 354 will be closed during the replacement activity (less than 3 weeks).

The project will be completed between July 1 and August 15, 2014.

**Project Information:** For additional information regarding this project, contact Stephanie Bransford at (208) 983-0675.

## MAP OF BASIN CREEK CULVERT REPLACEMENT SITE

### Basin Creek Culvert Replacement

